(c) and (d) According to India Meteorological Department, the monsoon rainfall at all India level does not show any trend but there are some regional patterns. This in turn would impact yields of crops. The process of climate change is slow and its effects on agriculture are projected to be apparent over several decades.

(e) Ministry of Enviroment & Forests has organized and funded many workshops/ conferences / seminars on the issue of climate change and brought out various publications. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is organizing conferences/workshops for scientists to give more thrust on climate change research. Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) is regularly conducting fresher courses and training workshops on Climate Change.

Indians in foreign jails

*374. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agrees that 6277 Indian citizen are languishing in foreign jails for travelling with false documents as revealed during deliberations in the recently concluded Pravasi Bhartiya Sammelan (January, 2008); and

(b) if so, whether any efforts are on the anvil to get them back to India especially from UAE; Singapore, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia etc. where their concentration is significant?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) As per available information, as of 29th November 2007, there were 5,197 Indian nationals imprisoned in foreign jails, some for travelling with false documents and others on other charges such as smuggling, burglary, robbery, drug trafficking, murder and sexual assault.

The Government of India, through its Missions and Posts abroad and in bilateral dealings with foreign Governments, makes every possible efforts to get Indian nationals in foreign jails released quickly and to provide necessary assistance. Such assistance includes seeking consular access to Indian detainees, requesting speedy trials, seeking remission of sentences, providing advice and guidance in legal and other matters, informing their families in India, ensuring fair and humane treatment in foreign jails and facilitating their repatriation to India on their release, including the provision of travel documents when these are not available.

New Forest Bill

*375. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the States that have framed rules and regulations to implement the policy after the passing of the new Forest Bill, giving rights to the original forest dwellers;

(b) whether it is a fact that the tribals are being harassed when they try to take the possession of their land; and

(c) by when and in what manner the harassment of tribals would stop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers